

(c) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to check this pilferage; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No Pilferage of OIL has been reported from Guwahati Refinery.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Encroachment of Village Land

3800. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Law enforcers turn offenders" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the concerned news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 2.3.1997. Since the order of the Consolidation Officer in the concerned village is now pending before the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, who has stayed the order and a final decision in this regard is yet to be taken by the concerned competent authority, this Ministry does not like to pass any comments judgement on this subject.

Uri Power Project

3801. SHRI ANANT GUDH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "2000 crore scandal in URI Power Project" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 27, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The allegation that there was misappropriation and manipulation in the cost of Uri Hydro-electric Project (480 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir is not based on facts. The project was sanctioned in June 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1632.62 crores (March 1989 price level) on turn-key execution with bilateral foreign assistance from

Sweden and United Kingdom. The completion period of the Project was six years from the date of start of works and the project was to be completed by November 1995 but, due to disturbed conditions in the project site, there was a delay in completion of the project which is now scheduled for May 1997. The latest estimated completion cost of the project is about Rs. 3300 crores. The increase of Rs. 1667 crores in the project cost is mainly due to exchange rate variation and extra interest liability due to delay in completion of the project. These have together contributed to an increase in the cost by about 80 per cent; the balance being due to price escalation and increase in taxes and duties etc.

Funds for Centrally Aided Schemes

3802. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally-aided schemes already approved by the Government for the municipalities in the Darjeeling Hills and Siliguri Corporation; and

(b) the scheme-wise allocation of Funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The details are as under :-

1. SCHEME OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM TOWNS (IDSMT) :

Under the IDSMT Scheme, Darjeeling and Siliguri towns were covered during the 6th Five Year Plan. The approved project cost were Rs. 113.37 lakhs and Rs. 107.26 lakhs and the amounts of Central Assistance provided were Rs. 47.19 lakhs and Rs. 52.15 lakhs respectively.

2. SCHEME OF URBAN BASIC SERVICES TO THE POOR (UBSP) :

Siliguri is one of the 28 towns in West Bengal selected for UBSP. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 136.45 lakhs has been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.

3. PRIME MINISTER'S INTEGRATED URBAN POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (PMI UPEP) :

The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) launched in November, 1995 is applicable to Darjeeling town. Under the Scheme, bulk allocation is provided to State Government for funding projects of towns. During 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 679.43 lakhs and during 1996-97, Rs. 300.06 lakhs have been released by the Government of India to the Government of West Bengal.